

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /127 W

----- 032812

R 050935Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7344

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BLANTYRE 1159

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, MI, SA, RH

SUBJ: MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY CALLS FOR DISCONTINUATION
OF MALAWI LABOR RECRUITMENT

REF: A. BLANTYRE A-60 8/17/74

B. BLANTYRE 1141

1. MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY ANNUAL CONVENTION ON SEPT 4 TURNED
ATTENTION TO RECRUITMENT OF MALAWI WORKERS BY FOREIGN
ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS WENELA (SOUTH AFRICA) AND MTHANDIZI
(RHODESIA). MINISTERS AND DELGATES WERE UNANIMOUS IN
CRITICIZING PROGRAMS (BOTH OF WHICH ARE CURRENTLY UNDER
SUSPENSION) AND IN CALLING ON PRESIDENT BANDA TO DISCONTINUE
THE PRACTICE PERMANENTLY. MINISTER OF LABOR LUNGU WAS ESPECIALLY
HARSH, STATING MALAWIAN WORKERS HAD RECEIVED POOR TREATMENT BY
WENELA AND ARE NOT "CONSIDERED AS HUMAN BEINGS" IN SOUTH AFRICA.
FRANCISTOWN AIR CRASH IN WHICH 75 MALAWIANS DIED IN APRIL WAS
FREQUENTLY CITED. INKOSI YA INKOSI M'MBELWA III, PARAMOUNT CHIEF
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OF MALAWI ANGONI FROM WHOSE REGION MANY WENELA MINERS COME, ALSO

CITED MALTREATMENT OF WORKERS AND SUPPORTED DISCONTINUATION OF RECRUITMENT.

2. COMMENT: CONVENTION DISCUSSION, WHICH IS ENGINEERED BY PRESIDENT BANDA, PROBABLY WILL LEAD TO PARTY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PERMANENT END TO RECRUITMENT. WE EXPECT PRESIDENT WILL APPROVE ANY SUCH RECOMMENDATION IN HIS SPEECH CLOSING CONVENTION SEPT 7.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

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